

Pim Hexagonal School (Six-Sided School)

HABS No. PA-5136

Original Location west side of North

Bailey Road, approximately .5 mile

north of U.S. Route 30 (Lincoln Highway);

moved to Caln Township Municipal Park

1968, set back from northeast corner

of North Bailey Road and U.S. Route 30

Thorndale (Caln Township)

Chester County

Pennsylvania

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-5136

PIM HEXAGONAL SCHOOL (Six-Sided School)

Location: Original location on west side of North Bailey Road, approximately .5 mile north of U.S. Route 30 (Lincoln Highway), moved 1968 to Caln Township Municipal Park, set back from northeast corner of North Bailey Road and U.S. Route 30, Thorndale (Caln Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Joseph C. Edge, Downingtown, Pennsylvania (1963).

Present Use: Vacant (1963).

Brief Statement of Significance: The only extant hexagonal schoolhouse in the county, it was built in 1841 by Richard Pim as a family and neighborhood school.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
 1. Richard Pim 1841-1871.
 2. John G. Edge 1871-1893.
 3. John G. & Joseph C. Edge 1893-1944.
 4. Joseph C. Edge 1944 to date.
2. Date of erection : 1841.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: One room with a spring in the cellar.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Tin roof replaced original shingles; cupola removed, but stored inside school; one-story shed added on north elevation; schoolhouse moved 1968.
6. Old views: There is a photograph from the 1880s showing the schoolhouse with the house, barn, and stable.

Prepared by Bart Anderson-September 1963
 Curator, Chester County Historical Society
 Updated 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is the only extant hexagonal building found in the county. It remains in close to original condition.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The hexagonal building measures 9' on each side; it is one story with an attic and a cellar at spring level.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Coursed rubble with cut face.
4. Chimneys: One for a stove.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One exterior door; original.
 - b. Windows: Original.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Polygonal hip roof of tin.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Denticulated cornice under eaves.
 - c. Cupola: Hexagonal cupola with ogee-arched openings removed and now stored inside schoolhouse.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: One room with spring in cellar.
2. Stairways: Enclosed.
3. Flooring: Original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered.
5. Doorways and doors: One interior door to stairway.
6. Trim: Original baseboard.
7. Hardware: Hinges original, other hardware removed.
8. Lighting: None
9. Heating: Stove

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Schoolhouse faces east and is built over a stream.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.

4. Walks, driveways: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens: None.

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